U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

1950 CENSUS OF HOUSING

SPECIAL TABULATIONS FOR LOCAL HOUSING AUTHORITIES

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POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA: APRIL 1950

This report is based on a transcription and tabulation of data from the 1950 Census of Population and Housing. The statistics relate to dwelling units considered substandard by the Public Housing Administration, in accordance with the contract for these statistics between the Bureau of the Census and the Montgomery County Housing Authority.

A dwelling unit is considered substandard by the Public Housing Administration if it is either dilapidated or does not have the following plumbing facilities: flush toilet and bath inside the structure for the unit's exclusive use, and hot running water. The Public Housing Administration considers the absence of hot running water to be evidence generally of poor quality of the dwelling unit, but there may be some localities in which the absence of hot running water is not deemed to be a sufficient indication by itself of poor quality. In such localities, a revised count of substandard units may be obtained from table 1 by subtracting from the total the units which lack hot water only. If it is desired to eliminate the units lacking hot water only from the total count of substandard units, the distributions shown in the tables will not be materially affected.

The criteria used to define substandard units in these tabulations are not identical with the housing characteristics included in the published reports from the 1940 Census. Therefore, any comparison of data in this report with the 1940 results must be made with extreme care. A direct comparison cannot be made with the 1940 results because information on hot running water was not collected at that time. Further, the 1940 data on condition were collected showing dwelling units "needing major repairs," whereas in 1950 data on condition were collected showing units as "dilapidated." Because the definitions of these two terms differ significantly, the 1940 count of dwelling units *needing major repairs* and the 1950 count of dilapidated dwelling units are comparable only in a general way.

The data are presented in the series of attached tables. In table 1 the structural and occupancy characteristics are shown for all substandard dwelling units. Table 2 shows the rent paid for renter-occupied substandard units; table 3 shows the condition and plumbing facilities of these same units. Table 4 shows the characteristics of all families (both primary and secondary) living in the substandard units. Table 4a classifies the primary families by family income. Table 5 classifies primary families with no subfamily or secondary family present, by rent as a percent of family income.

In the contract rent tabulation, dwelling units occupied rent-free are tabulated in the "$9 or less" category. In the gross rent tabulations, however, such units are tabulated as "not reporting," except when utilities were reported.

DEFINITIONS

The definitions used in this special tabulation are generally the same as those used in the 1950 Census of Population and Housing. Some of the more important definitions are given below.

Dwelling unit.--In general, a dwelling unit is a group of rooms or a single room, occupied, or intended for occupancy, as separate living quarters by a family or other group of persons living together or by a person living alone.

Primary family.--A primary family consists of two or more persons including the head of the household and all (one or more) persons in the household who are related to the head by blood, marriage, or adoption. It may include a subfamily consisting of a married couple with or without children, or one parent with one or more children under 18 years of age, living in the household and related to but not including the head of the household or his wife. The subfamily is considered a part of the primary family for all tabulation purposes.

Secondary family.--A secondary family consists of two or more persons, such as a lodger or servant and his relatives, living in a household and related to each other but not related to the household head. The secondary family is considered a separate family for tabulation purposes.

Minor.--A minor is an unmarried person under 21 years of age other than the head of a family or his wife.

Dilapidation.--A dwelling unit is considered to be dilapidated when it has serious deficiencies, is rundown or neglected, or is of inadequate original construction, so that it does not provide adequate shelter or protection against the elements or it endangers the safety of the occupants.

Plumbing facilities.--The following are the three plumbing facilities tabulated:

1. Flush toilet inside the structure for the unit's exclusive use;
2. Installed bathtub or shower inside the structure for the unit's exclusive use; and
3. Hot and cold running water inside the structure.

Exclusive use.--Equipment is for "exclusive use" if it is used only by the occupants of one dwelling unit.

Shared.--Equipment is "shared" when occupants of two or more units use the same equipment.

Family income.--Family income is the sum of the income received during 1949, by all members of the family. The following items were asked separately for the head of the family and for all other members of the family combined:

1. The amount of money wages or salary received in 1949;
2. The amount of net money income received from self-employment in 1949; and
3. The amount of other money income received in 1949, such as interest, dividends, veterans' allowances, pensions, or rents.

Gross rent.--Monthly gross rent is contract rent plus the reported average monthly cost of water, electricity, gas, and other fuel paid for by the renter. If furniture is included in the contract rent, the reported estimated rent of the dwelling unit without furniture is used for the computation instead of the contract rent.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE DATA

The data in tables 1 through 4 are based on complete counts, including all dwelling units and families with the specified characteristics. The distributions involving income in tables 4a and 5, however, were prepared from data collected on a sample basis. As part of the 1950 Census, family income data were obtained from about one-fifth of all families. For these tabulations, additional interviews were made to increase the income sample above the 20 percent level. This was accomplished by a subsequent field enumeration of a sample of families who were not in the original sample but were living in substandard dwelling units.

Although the figures shown in tables 1 through 4 are based on the same data as the forthcoming 1950 Census tabulations of these items, they may differ from those to be published as part of the Census. The present tables were obtained by tabulating directly the data as transcribed in the field offices of the Census Bureau and the figures, therefore, do not include all of the refinements that result from a careful examination of the schedules.

In addition, the data are subject to other biases due to errors of response or nonreporting which cannot be corrected in editing. Factors affecting the accuracy of enumeration include the respondent's knowledge of the facts and the ability of the enumerator to obtain accurate information on such items as income, rent, dilapidation and plumbing facilities. The regular 1950 tabulations are also subject to these biases.

Reliability of Estimates in Tables 4a and 5

Because of sampling variability, percentage distributions shown in table 4a and all figures in table 5 may differ from those that would have been obtained from a complete count. (The absolute figures in table 4a represent complete

counts and are not subject to sampling variations.) The reliability estimates which follow give approximate measures of the sampling errors to be expected in these sample data.

Reliability of the percentages in tables 4a and 5.--The allowance to be made for sampling variation in a percentage depends, in general, both on the value of the percentage and the size of the base on which it is determined. If two percentages are of the same magnitude, the one based on a large number of cases in the sample is, in general, less variable than the one based on a small number of sample cases.

Estimates of reliability are shown in the following table for percentages with bases of primary families of the specified types. The chances are about 19 out of 20 that the differences due to sampling variability between the percentages obtained from the sample and the percentages which would have been obtained from a complete census would be less than the sampling errors shown below.

Percentage shown in table	Sampling variability if the base is—					
	All primary families in substandard dwelling units			All primary families with no subfamily or secondary family present, in substandard renter units		
	Total	Owner	Renter	Total	No minors	With minors
0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	(1)	0.8
1.0	0.6	1.1	0.9	0.9		1.2
2.0	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.2		1.6
3.0	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.5		2.0
4.0	1.3	1.9	1.7	1.7		2.3
5.0	1.4	2.1	1.9	1.9		2.5
10.0	1.9	2.9	2.6	2.7		3.5
15.0	2.3	3.4	3.1	3.2		4.1
20.0	2.6	3.8	3.4	3.6		4.7
25.0	2.6	4.2	3.7	3.8		5.0
30.0	2.9	4.4	3.9	4.1		5.3
40.0	3.1	4.7	4.2	4.4		5.7
50.0	3.2	4.8	4.3	4.4		5.8

[1] Omitted because percentage distribution is not shown.

To illustrate, for a figure of 10 percent based on all primary families living in substandard renter dwelling units, the sampling variability is 2.6 percent; the chances are about 19 out of 20 that the percentage obtained by a complete census would have been between 7.4 percent and 12.6 percent.

Reliability of absolute figures in table 5.--The approximate sampling variability of the absolute figures in table 5 is shown below. The chances are 19 out of 20 that the differences between the numbers shown in table 5 and the numbers that would have been obtained from a complete census would be less than the sampling errors which follow.

Classification	Absolute figure in table 5	Sampling variability
Total.....	287	7
No minors.....	119	13
With minors.....	168	13

Reliability of differences.--The estimates of sampling variability shown in the above tables are not directly applicable to differences obtained by subtracting one figure from another. The sampling variability in an observed difference between two figures depends on the sampling variability of each of the figures and the correlation between them.

Table 1.--STRUCTURAL AND OCCUPANCY CHARACTERISTICS, CONDITION, AND PLUMBING FACILITIES OF OCCUPIED SUBSTANDARD DWELLING UNITS, BY TENURE, FOR POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA: 1950

(A substandard dwelling unit is defined by the Public Housing Administration as a unit which is either dilapidated or does not have all of the following plumbing facilities: flush toilet and bath inside the structure for the unit's exclusive use, and hot running water)

Characteristic	Total	Owner	Renter
Total number occupied substandard dwelling units	715	356	359
Percent of total	100.0	49.8	50.2
NUMBER OF ROOMS			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 room	1.7	0.8	2.5
2 rooms	11.3	4.8	17.8
3 rooms	10.5	5.6	15.3
4 rooms	20.4	19.4	21.4
5 rooms	22.5	25.3	19.8
6 rooms	18.5	22.8	14.2
7 rooms	8.8	14.0	3.6
8 rooms or more	6.2	7.3	5.0
Not reported	0.1	-	0.3
CONDITION			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Not dilapidated	89.1	87.1	91.1
Dilapidated	10.9	12.9	8.9
Not reported	-	-	-
WATER SUPPLY			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hot and cold piped running water inside structure	39.3	40.2	38.4
Only cold piped running water inside structure	50.2	47.2	53.2
No piped running water inside structure	10.3	12.6	8.1
Not reported	0.1	-	0.3
TOILET FACILITIES			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Flush toilet inside structure, exclusive use	46.3	42.7	49.9
Flush toilet inside structure, shared	19.3	12.1	26.5
Other toilet facilities (including privy)	34.4	45.2	23.7
Not reported	-	-	-
BATHING FACILITIES			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Installed bathtub or shower inside structure, exclusive use	16.4	16.0	16.7
Installed bathtub or shower inside structure, shared	17.6	10.7	24.5
Other or none	65.9	73.0	58.8
Not reported	0.1	0.3	-
NUMBER OF PERSONS			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 person	12.6	12.4	12.8
2 persons	28.7	23.0	34.3
3 persons	17.5	18.3	16.7
4 persons	17.2	18.3	16.2
5 persons	9.8	10.4	9.2
6 persons	6.2	8.7	3.6
7 persons	3.1	3.1	3.1
8 persons	2.4	2.8	1.9
9 persons or more	2.7	3.1	2.2

Characteristic	Total	Owner	Renter
NUMBER OF LODGERS			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
None	96.4	96.1	96.7
1 or more lodgers	3.6	3.9	3.3
CONDITION AND PLUMBING FACILITIES			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Not dilapidated:			
With private bath and private flush toilet, no hot running water	7.6	4.8	10.3
With private flush toilet, no private bath	31.9	30.1	33.7
With running water, no private flush toilet	41.4	42.4	40.4
No running water inside the structure	8.1	9.8	6.4
Dilapidated:			
With private bath and private flush toilet, hot and cold running water	4.6	5.6	3.6
With private bath and private flush toilet, no hot running water	0.4	0.3	0.6
With private flush toilet, no private bath	1.7	1.7	1.7
With running water, no private flush toilet	1.8	2.2	1.4
No running water inside the structure	2.2	2.8	1.7
Not reporting condition or plumbing facilities	0.3	0.3	0.3
CONDITION BY NUMBER OF PLUMBING FACILITIES			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Not dilapidated:			
Lacking 1 facility	20.4	22.5	18.4
Lacking 2 facilities	44.2	33.7	54.6
Lacking 3 facilities	24.3	30.9	17.8
Dilapidated:			
With all facilities	4.6	5.6	3.6
Lacking 1 facility	0.6	0.6	0.6
Lacking 2 facilities	1.8	2.0	1.7
Lacking 3 facilities	3.8	4.5	3.1
Not reporting condition or plumbing facilities	0.3	0.3	0.3
NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS IN STRUCTURE			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 dwelling unit	70.2	83.7	56.8
2 to 4 dwelling units	26.7	16.1	37.3
5 or more dwelling units	3.1	0.3	5.8

Table 2.--CONTRACT AND GROSS RENT OF RENTER-OCCUPIED SUBSTANDARD DWELLING UNITS, FOR POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA: 1950

(See table 1 for the Public Housing Administration definition of substandard dwelling unit)

Monthly contract rent	Total	Furniture in rent	Total	Monthly gross rent	Total
Total number renter-occupied substandard dwelling units	359	Total, percent	100.0	Total, percent	100.0
Total, percent	100.0	Furniture included in contract rent	4.2	$9 or less	1.1
$9 or less	5.0	Furniture not included in contract rent	81.3	$10 to $14	3.1
$10 to $14	16.2	Not reported	14.5	$15 to $19	10.0
$15 to $19	23.7			$20 to $24	10.3
$20 to $24	13.6			$25 to $29	15.6
$25 to $29	10.6			$30 to $34	15.6
$30 to $34	8.6			$35 to $39	11.4
$35 to $39	5.3			$40 to $49	16.7
$40 to $49	7.5			$50 or more	7.8
$50 or more	4.7			Not reported	8.4
Not reported	4.7				

Table 3.--CONDITION AND PLUMBING FACILITIES OF RENTER-OCCUPIED SUBSTANDARD DWELLING UNITS, BY GROSS RENT, FOR POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA: 1950

(See table 1 for the Public Housing Administration definition of substandard dwelling unit)

Condition and plumbing facilities	Total	Monthly gross rent							
		$19 or less	$20 to $24	$25 to $29	$30 to $34	$35 to $39	$40 to $49	$50 or more	Not reported
Total number renter-occupied substandard dwelling units	359	51	37	56	56	41	60	28	30
Percent of total	100.0	14.2	10.3	15.6	15.6	11.4	16.7	7.8	8.4
Not dilapidated:									
With private bath and private flush toilet, no hot running water	10.3	1.9	0.6	0.8	1.4	1.9	2.2	0.6	0.9
With private flush toilet, no private bath	33.7	3.6	3.3	7.8	8.9	4.2	2.8	-	3.1
With running water, no private flush toilet	40.4	3.9	5.3	4.5	3.1	4.5	9.7	6.1	3.3
No running water inside structure	6.4	2.8	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.3	-	0.3	0.8
Dilapidated:									
With private bath and private flush toilet, hot and cold running water	3.6	-	-	-	0.3	0.6	1.9	0.8	-
With private bath and private flush toilet, no hot running water	0.6	-	-	0.3	0.3	-	-	-	-
With private flush toilet, no private bath	1.7	-	0.3	0.8	0.6	-	-	-	-
With running water, no private flush toilet	1.4	0.8	0.3	0.3	-	-	-	-	-
No running water inside structure	1.7	1.1	-	0.3	-	-	-	-	0.3
Not reporting condition or plumbing facilities	0.3	-	-	-	0.3	-	-	-	-

Table 4.--CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILIES IN SUBSTANDARD DWELLING UNITS BY TENURE, FOR POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA: 1950

(See table 1 for the Public Housing Administration definition of substandard dwelling unit)

Characteristic	Total	Owner	Renter	Characteristic	Total	Owner	Renter
Total number of families	630	317	313	NUMBER OF PERSONS PER ROOM IN DWELLING UNIT			
Percent of total	100.0	50.3	49.7	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
TYPE OF FAMILY				0.50 or less	27.3	31.9	22.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.51 to 0.75	23.3	23.3	23.3
Primary family	97.5	96.8	98.1	0.76 to 1.00	31.3	27.8	34.8
Secondary family	2.5	3.2	1.9	1.01 to 1.50	12.5	12.6	12.5
NUMBER OF PERSONS IN FAMILY				1.51 to 2.00	4.6	4.1	5.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.01 or more	0.8	0.3	1.3
2 persons	35.6	29.7	41.5	Not reported	0.2	-	0.3
3 persons	20.2	21.1	19.2	NUMBER OF MINORS IN FAMILY			
4 persons	18.1	19.6	16.6	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
5 persons	11.0	11.4	10.5	No minors	4[illegible].9	42.9	4[illegible].8
6 persons	6.2	8.2	4.2	1 minor	22.2	19.6	24.[illegible]
7 persons	3.5	3.8	3.2	2 minors	15.7	17.0	14.4
8 persons or more	5.6	6.3	4.8	3 minors	7.3	6.0	8.6
				4 minors	5.2	6.9	3.5
				5 minors	2.4	2.2	2.6
				6 minors or more	4.3	5.4	3.2

Table 4a.--INCOME IN 1949 OF PRIMARY FAMILIES IN SUBSTANDARD DWELLING UNITS, BY NUMBER OF MINORS AND TENURE, FOR POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA: 1950

(See table 1 for the Public Housing Administration definition of substandard dwelling unit)

Family income by number of minors	Total	Owner	Renter
Total number of primary families	614	307	307
Percent of total	100.0	50.0	50.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
$999 or less	9.8	8.9	10.7
$1,000 to $1,249	1.3	0.6	2.0
$1,250 to $1,499	2.6	2.2	3.1
$1,500 to $1,749	7.0	8.3	5.6
$1,750 to $1,999	5.4	1.7	9.2
$2,000 to $2,249	6.4	6.7	6.1
$2,250 to $2,499	7.3	8.9	5.6
$2,500 to $2,749	10.9	10.0	11.7
$2,750 to $2,999	5.9	6.1	5.6
$3,000 to $3,999	23.9	23.3	24.5
$4,000 to $4,999	10.5	13.3	7.7
$5,000 or more	5.9	7.2	4.6
Not reported	3.2	2.8	3.6
No minors	41.1	43.3	38.8
$999 or less	5.9	6.7	5.1
$1,000 to $1,249	0.3	-	0.5
$1,250 to $1,499	1.9	1.7	2.0
$1,500 to $1,749	3.7	3.9	3.6
$1,750 to $1,999	3.1	1.7	4.6
$2,000 to $2,249	2.6	1.7	3.6
$2,250 to $2,499	3.3	5.0	1.5
$2,500 to $2,749	4.2	3.9	4.6
$2,750 to $2,999	1.9	2.2	1.5
$3,000 to $3,999	8.5	9.4	7.7
$4,000 to $4,999	3.0	3.9	2.0
$5,000 or more	1.4	2.2	0.5
Not reported	1.3	1.1	1.5
One minor	23.0	20.0	26.0
$999 or less	2.4	1.7	3.1
$1,000 to $1,249	0.3	-	0.5
$1,250 to $1,499	0.3	0.6	-
$1,500 to $1,749	1.1	1.7	0.5
$1,750 to $1,999	1.3	-	2.6
$2,000 to $2,249	1.3	1.7	1.0
$2,250 to $2,499	2.4	2.2	2.6
$2,500 to $2,749	1.9	1.7	2.0
$2,750 to $2,999	1.3	1.1	1.5
$3,000 to $3,999	4.5	3.9	5.1
$4,000 to $4,999	3.2	2.8	3.6
$5,000 or more	2.6	2.2	3.1
Not reported	0.5	0.6	0.5
Two minors	17.0	17.2	16.8
$999 or less	1.0	0.6	1.5
$1,000 to $1,249	-	-	-
$1,250 to $1,499	0.5	-	1.0
$1,500 to $1,749	1.1	1.7	0.5
$1,750 to $1,999	0.3	-	0.5
$2,000 to $2,249	1.1	1.1	1.0
$2,250 to $2,499	0.8	0.6	1.0
$2,500 to $2,749	1.8	1.1	2.6
$2,750 to $2,999	1.3	0.6	2.0
$3,000 to $3,999	5.3	5.0	5.6
$4,000 to $4,999	2.2	3.9	0.5
$5,000 or more	1.1	1.7	0.5
Not reported	0.6	1.1	-
Three or four minors	12.5	11.7	13.3
$999 or less	-	-	-
$1,000 to $1,249	0.5	0.6	0.5
$1,250 to $1,499	-	-	-
$1,500 to $1,749	0.5	0.6	0.5
$1,750 to $1,999	0.3	-	0.5
$2,000 to $2,249	1.1	1.7	0.5
$2,250 to $2,499	0.3	-	0.5
$2,500 to $2,749	2.1	1.7	2.6
$2,750 to $2,999	0.5	0.6	0.5
$3,000 to $3,999	4.2	3.9	4.6
$4,000 to $4,999	1.6	2.2	1.0
$5,000 or more	0.5	0.6	0.5
Not reported	0.8	-	1.5
5 minors or more	6.4	7.8	5.1
$999 or less	0.5	-	1.0
$1,000 to $1,249	0.3	-	0.5
$1,250 to $1,499	-	-	-
$1,500 to $1,749	0.5	0.6	0.5
$1,750 to $1,999	0.5	-	1.0
$2,000 to $2,249	0.3	0.6	-
$2,250 to $2,499	0.6	1.1	-
$2,500 to $2,749	0.8	1.7	-
$2,750 to $2,999	0.8	1.7	-
$3,000 to $3,999	1.3	1.1	1.5
$4,000 to $4,999	0.5	0.6	0.5
$5,000 or more	0.3	0.6	-
Not reported	-	-	-

Table 5.--RENT AS PERCENT OF INCOME BY FAMILY INCOME IN 1949 OF PRIMARY FAMILIES WITH NO SUBFAMILY OR SECONDARY FAMILY IN RENTER-OCCUPIED SUBSTANDARD DWELLING UNITS, BY PRESENCE OF MINORS, FOR POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA: 1950

(See table 1 for the Public Housing Administration definition of substandard dwelling unit)

Gross rent as percent of income by family income	Total	No minors	With minors
Number of families	287	119	168
Percent of total	100.0	41.5	58.5
Total	100.0	(1)	100.0
9 percent or less	21.3		23.4
10 percent to 14 percent	25.7		29.0
15 percent to 19 percent	16.4		15.9
20 percent to 24 percent	8.2		8.4
25 percent to 29 percent	7.7		6.5
30 percent to 34 percent	3.8		1.9
35 percent or more	6.6		4.7
Not reported	10.4		10.3
$1,499 or less	14.2		11.2
9 percent or less	4.4		4.7
10 percent to 14 percent	-		-
15 percent to 19 percent	0.5		-
20 percent to 24 percent	-		-
25 percent to 29 percent	2.7		2.8
30 percent to 34 percent	0.5		-
35 percent or more	6.0		3.7
$1,500 to $1,999	14.8		11.2
9 percent or less	1.6		0.9
10 percent to 14 percent	2.7		2.8
15 percent to 19 percent	3.8		0.9
20 percent to 24 percent	2.2		2.8
25 percent to 29 percent	2.7		2.8
30 percent to 34 percent	1.1		-
35 percent or more	0.5		0.9
$2,000 to $2,499	10.9		9.8
9 percent or less	0.5		-
10 percent to 14 percent	2.2		1.9
15 percent to 19 percent	2.7		3.7
20 percent to 24 percent	1.6		0.9
25 percent to 29 percent	1.6		0.9
30 percent to 34 percent	2.2		1.9
35 percent or more	-		-
$2,500 to $2,999	16.4		17.8
9 percent or less	2.2		2.8
10 percent to 14 percent	6.6		6.5
15 percent to 19 percent	3.8		3.7
20 percent to 24 percent	3.3		4.7
25 percent to 29 percent	0.5		-
30 percent to 34 percent	-		-
35 percent or more	-		-
$3,000 or over	33.3		40.2
9 percent or less	12.6		15.0
10 percent to 14 percent	14.2		17.8
15 percent to 19 percent	5.5		7.5
20 percent to 24 percent	1.1		-
25 percent to 29 percent	-		-
30 percent to 34 percent	-		-
35 percent or more	-		-
Not reporting income or rent	10.4		10.3

[1] Percentage distribution is not shown where the number of cases in the sample is less than 100.